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978-0-521-51779-9 - Musical Modernism at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century

David Metzer

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## Musical Modernism at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century

Providing a new approach to developments in recent modernist music – from 1980 to the present day – this study also presents an original perspective on the larger history of modernism. Far from being supplanted by a postmodern period, argues David Metzer, modernist idioms remain vital in the contemporary scene. The vitality comes from the ways in which those idioms have extended impulses of modernist styles from the early twentieth century. Since that time, works have participated in lines of inquiry into various compositional and aesthetic topics, particularly the explorations of how to build pieces around such aesthetic ideals as purity and silence and how to deliver and manipulate expressive utterances. Metzer shows how these inquiries have played crucial roles in defining directions taken since 1980, and how, through the inquiries, we can gain a clearer idea of what makes the decades after 1980 a distinct period in the history of modernism.

DAVID METZER is Professor of Music at the University of British Columbia. He is the author of *Quotation and Cultural Meaning in Twentieth-Century Music* (Cambridge 2003), and has contributed to numerous journals, including *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, *Modernism/Modernity*, and *Journal of Musicology*.

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521517799](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521517799)

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First published 2009

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Metzer, David Joel, 1965–

Musical modernism at the turn of the twenty-first century / David Metzer.

p. cm. – (Music in the twentieth century)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-51779-9 (hardback)

1. Modernism (Music) 2. Music – 20th century – Philosophy and aesthetics.

3. Music – 21st century – Philosophy and aesthetics.

I. Title. II. Series.

ML3845.M44 2009

780.9'05 – dc22 2009025309

ISBN 978-0-521-51779-9 Hardback

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## Acknowledgements

I was drawn to the “Music in the Twentieth Century” series by the prospect of working with the series editor Arnold Whittall. As I had hoped, Professor Whittall had much to say during the production of the manuscript. Another voice is always welcome in the solitude of scholarly writing. It is especially so when the book, like this one, ventures new views on well-covered topics, no better example being the history and nature of musical modernism. Such boldness needs to be challenged and encouraged. Prof. Whittall did both in his comments on chapter drafts. To have been engaged in an ongoing and spirited conversation with an elite scholar in the field has been a rare opportunity for which I am grateful. I am also pleased to continue the rewarding relationship with Cambridge University Press that began with my first book, *Quotation and Cultural Meaning in Twentieth-Century Music*. Vicki Cooper has championed this project since the earliest stages. Rebecca Jones has patiently answered my many questions and unfailingly steered me in the right directions.

Throughout the writing of the book, I have benefited from the assistance of friends and colleagues. They have provided so much of what a scholar requires, including encouragement, lodging, bibliographic suggestions, incisive criticism, and humor. Each has made a personal contribution, which I unfortunately do not have the time to describe here. I hope that they do not mind being lined up in an alphabetical list of thanks: Arved Ashby, Amy Bauer, Sally Bick, Dániel Péter Biró, Greg Butler, Alan Dodson, Eric Drott, Alex Fisher, Jonathan Goldman, Jim Grier, Matthew Head, Rachel Iwaasa, Richard Kurth, Sherry Lee, Trent Leipert, Richard Leppert, Vera Micznik, Greg Miller, Greg Newsome, David Paul, and Rodney Sharman. I would also like to thank my parents for their undying support. Gordon Paslawski provided invaluable assistance with the musical examples, not any easy task with scores abounding with intricate and idiosyncratic notation.

I completed the manuscript during a sabbatical stay at Peterhouse at Cambridge University. The college was generous in allowing me to use its academic and computer resources. I especially enjoyed the wonderful scholarly company. My deepest thanks to Richard Grigson for making those memorable months possible.

This project was supported by grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



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### Acknowledgements

Sections of Chapter 1 appeared previously in “The Paths from and to Abstraction in Stockhausen’s *Gesang der Jünglinge*,” *Modernism/Modernity* 11 (2004), 695–721. Sections of Chapter 2 were originally published in “Modern Silence,” *Journal of Musicology* 23 (2006), 331–74.

2009. Musical Modernism at the Turn of the Twenty-first Century. Music in the Twentieth Century 26. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press.Â 2008. Rethinking Musical Modernism: Proceedings of the International Conference Held from October 11 to 13, 2007 / Muzicki modernizamâ€”nova tumacenja : zbornik radova sa naucnog skupa odzanog od 11. do 13. oktobra 2007. Belgrade: Institute of Musicology. ISBN 978-86-7025-463-3.